

CLAIMS:

1. A control circuit for controlling the operation of a piezo ceramic actuator comprising means for applying a voltage to the piezo ceramic actuator, the voltage applying means being arranged such that a charge is applied to the piezo ceramic device (10) which in turn produces a displacement of the piezo ceramic device, characterised in that the voltage applying means is arranged to apply a reverse bias voltage to the actuator.
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- 10 2. The control circuit according to claim 1, further comprising means for generating a control signal indicative of the temperature of the actuator and means for altering the amount of reverse bias voltage as a function of the control signal.
- 15 3. The control circuit according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the means for applying a voltage includes an H-bridge.
- 20 4. The control circuit according to claim 3, wherein the H-bridge is provided with a plurality of switches arranged to charge and discharge the piezo ceramic device.
5. The control circuit according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of switches are transistor switches.
- 25 6. The control circuit according to claims 3, 4 or 5, wherein the H-bridge is configured to apply the reverse bias voltage to the actuator.
7. A piezo ceramic actuator arrangement comprising a piezo ceramic actuator and a control circuit according to any one of the preceding claims.

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